



2024

Stage 2

Level B2

Time

Listening: 30 minutes

Reading and Writing: 1 hour

Candidate Number _____

Name _____

Answer all questions.

Use black ball-point pen on your answer sheet.

Do NOT use pencil or correction fluid.

At the end of the test the supervisor will collect your paper and answer sheets.

Instructions may also be given in your language by your supervisor.

Good luck!

Part 1

Listening

Questions 1-5

You will hear five people talking in different situations.
Choose A, B, C or D.

- 1 What is the woman's husband most likely to be upset about?
 - A) The car being stolen
 - B) The fact that she did not listen to him
 - C) Her mother's whereabouts
 - D) Taking the car into town

- 2 What is the primary symptom of the mysterious syndrome?
 - A) It is still a mystery
 - B) Uncontrollable head nodding
 - C) Visual disturbances
 - D) Rare seizures

- 3 According to the expert, the major concern associated with social media that many people fail to realize is _____.
 - A) its contribution to global warming
 - B) its impact on interpersonal relationships
 - C) its effect on cognitive abilities
 - D) its role in promoting physical fitness

- 4 In the described social gathering, what is the primary concern when someone finds another person's remarks inappropriate?
 - A) Ensuring that the remarks remain unaddressed
 - B) Striving to maintain harmony in the group
 - C) Responding with immediate confrontation
 - D) Fostering respectful discourse

- 5 What does the author's experience with the prank emphasize?
 - A) The impact a tall building can have when frightening your friends
 - B) The need for more practical jokes in daily life that do not frighten us
 - C) The thrill of elaborate pranks
 - D) The delicate boundary separating amusement from authentic dread



Part 2

Listening

Questions 6-10

You will hear a man talking about an encounter he had while hiking in the mountains. Choose A, B, C or D.

- 6 What is the main emotion the narrator felt when he first encountered the bear?
- A) Excitement
 - B) Anger
 - C) Curiosity
 - D) Fear
- 7 Why did the narrator initially mistake the bear's presence for something else?
- A) The bear was playfully following him
 - B) He thought the bear was a friendly creature
 - C) He saw claw marks which he assigned to another source
 - D) The bear's size made it look dangerous
- 8 What change in the forest made the narrator realize he was in serious danger?
- A) The bear's aggressive growling
 - B) The rustling of leaves
 - C) The sudden silence
 - D) The bear's colossal size
- 9 What tactics did the bear use during the chase to make it unusual and lengthy?
- A) Running straight behind the narrator
 - B) Setting traps and creating false trails
 - C) Taking long breaks between pursuits
 - D) Ignoring the narrator for long stretches
- 10 In the cave, what made the narrator reflect on the bear's actions?
- A) The solitude and time for contemplation
 - B) The mysterious markings on the cave walls
 - C) The echoing growls of the bear
 - D) The appearance of another bear in the cave



Part 3

Questions 11-20
Complete the gaps in the text.
Choose A, B, C or D.

The Fear of Missing Out

In today's hyperconnected world, the Fear of Missing Out (FOMO) has become a prevalent psychological phenomenon. FOMO refers to the anxious feeling we experience when we believe others are having rewarding experiences that we are not a part of. While FOMO may seem harmless, its long-term **(11)** _____ on our mental well-being can be significant.

Constantly being bombarded with highlights of other people's lives on social media can trigger feelings of inadequacy and anxiety. Comparing our own experiences to those portrayed online can lead to a constant fear of missing out on exciting events or opportunities **(12)** _____ causing stress and unhappiness.

FOMO often leads to dissatisfaction with our current circumstances. We may feel **(13)** _____ of others and believe that their lives are superior to ours. This can breed a perpetual **(14)** _____ of discontentment, preventing us from appreciating and making the most of the present moment.

The excessive focus on what others are doing can **(15)** _____ the development of genuine and meaningful relationships. Constantly seeking validation through online interactions can replace face-to-face connections, leading to a sense of loneliness and isolation.

Practicing mindfulness can help **(16)** _____ our attention to the present moment. By cultivating awareness of our thoughts and emotions, we can better understand and challenge the irrational beliefs fuelling our FOMO. Engaging fully in our own experiences, without being **(17)** _____ with what others are doing, allows us to savour the present and find joy in our own lives.

Taking regular breaks from social media can provide a much-needed respite from the constant stream of updates and comparisons. Disconnecting from virtual worlds allows us to reconnect with our own interests, passions, and personal relationships. This usually results in **(18)** _____ a sense of self-fulfilment and reducing the fear of missing out.

Focusing on gratitude helps shift our mindset from scarcity to abundance. By acknowledging and appreciating the positive aspects of our lives, we can counteract feelings of **(19)** _____ and envy. Practicing gratitude regularly promotes contentment and a greater sense of fulfilment in the present moment.

Taking care of our physical, emotional, and **(20)** _____ well-being is crucial in overcoming FOMO. Engaging in activities that nourish and energize us, such as exercise, hobbies, or spending quality time with loved ones, helps create a sense of fulfilment and purpose in our lives.



- | | | | | |
|----|--------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| 11 | A) affluence | B) weight | C) implant | D) impact |
| 12 | A) ultimatum | B) ultimately | C) traditionally | D) always |
| 13 | A) inferior | B) envious | C) superior | D) compared |
| 14 | A) circle | B) path | C) cycle | D) amount |
| 15 | A) harness | B) eradicate | C) bring | D) hinder |
| 16 | A) show | B) release | C) redirect | D) demonstrate |
| 17 | A) worried | B) aware | C) preoccupied | D) jealous |
| 18 | A) fostering | B) forcing | C) linking | D) association |
| 19 | A) luck | B) lack | C) jealous | D) hatred |
| 20 | A) all | B) good | C) precious | D) mental |

Part 4

Questions 21-30

Three people talk about Slacktivism.

Read and answer the questions. Choose A, B, C or D.

Rethinking Slacktivism

Maia (Activist)

The Rise of Slacktivism

In an era dominated by digital connectivity, a new form of activism has emerged: slacktivism. Coined by combining the words "slacker" and "activism," slacktivism refers to the ease with which individuals can engage in low-effort, online activities that give the impression of supporting social causes. Sharing hashtags, signing online petitions, or temporarily changing profile pictures have become popular ways to show support, but their impact on real-world change is a subject of ongoing debate. Slacktivism has gained significant popularity. The advent of social media platforms and online communities has provided a stage for individuals to express their views and show solidarity with social causes through minimal effort and have become quick and accessible ways to engage in activism. While these activities may create a sense of participation and community, critics argue that slacktivism lacks substance and fails to produce meaningful, real-world change. What is lacking, in my view, is a sincere awareness of its limitations, and the necessary steps to transform online engagement into tangible social progress.

Matt (Politician)

Is There a Role for Slacktivism

The impact of slacktivism is a contentious topic among scholars, activists, and the public. Sceptics claim that online activities often provide only a superficial sense of engagement, diverting attention and resources from more impactful actions. They argue that slacktivism can perpetuate a culture of "clicktivism," where the illusion of support replaces genuine, sustained efforts for social progress. However, proponents of slacktivism argue that it serves as a gateway for awareness and education, allowing individuals to become familiar with critical issues and inspiring them to take further action offline.



Rather than dismissing slacktivism outright, it is essential to explore how online activism can be transformed into real-world impact. First and foremost, slacktivism can play a crucial role in raising awareness about social issues. The widespread sharing of hashtags and campaigns can bring marginalized topics into the mainstream, initiating conversations and inspiring action. However, to maximize the effectiveness of slacktivism, it is crucial to go beyond symbolic gestures and encourage individuals to take concrete steps toward change. This includes providing educational resources, offering actionable ways to get involved, and facilitating offline engagement

Richard (Professor of Law)

From Slacktivism to Activism

To bridge the gap between online engagement and tangible activism, it is necessary to provide individuals with meaningful avenues for action. Organizations and initiatives can leverage the momentum generated by slacktivism by offering opportunities for volunteering, organizing community events, or supporting grassroots movements. Collaborations between online communities and established activist groups can combine the strengths of both worlds, uniting virtual support with on-the-ground efforts. Slacktivism, while often criticized for its perceived lack of impact, can serve as a catalyst for social change. By embracing the potential of online engagement and combining it with tangible activism, we can transform slacktivism into a powerful force for progress. Acknowledging the limitations of online activities and offering pathways for offline involvement can ensure that slacktivism becomes a stepping-stone towards lasting change. It is in this intersection of the virtual and the real that we can create a new paradigm of activism, uniting diverse voices and driving meaningful social transformation.

- 21 What does the term "slacktivism" refer to?
- A) A combination of slacker culture and activism
 - B) Engaging in low-effort online activities for social causes
 - C) Active participation in offline activism movements
 - D) The impact of social media on political activism
- 22 How do critics of slacktivism view its impact?
- A) They argue it diverts attention from more impactful actions
 - B) They believe it leads to genuine social change
 - C) They see it as a meaningful form of online engagement
 - D) They consider it a complementary strategy to offline activism
- 23 One argument made by proponents of slacktivism is that _____.
- A) it perpetuates a culture of genuine activism
 - B) it provides a superficial sense of engagement
 - C) it raises awareness and encourages further action
 - D) it replaces offline activism efforts completely
- 24 How can slacktivism be transformed into tangible social progress?
- A) By dismissing it as ineffective and focusing solely on offline actions
 - B) By emphasizing symbolic gestures and virtual support
 - C) By providing educational resources and actionable offline engagement
 - D) By encouraging online debates and conversations



- 25** What role does awareness play in the context of slacktivism?
A) It is irrelevant to the effectiveness of online activism
B) It serves as a foundation for meaningful action
C) It limits the potential impact of slacktivism
D) It perpetuates a culture of superficial engagement
- 26** Organizations can harness the power of slacktivism by _____.
A) providing volunteering opportunities and supporting grassroots movements
B) organizing viral challenges and social media campaigns
C) discouraging online engagement and focusing solely on offline actions
D) relying on online activities as the sole avenue for activism
- 27** What is the key to transforming slacktivism into activism?
A) Generating online awareness through viral content
B) Dismissing the importance of online engagement
C) Encouraging passive participation through online petitions
D) Combining virtual support with concrete offline actions
- 28** What is the significance of collaborations between online communities and established activist groups?
A) They lead to the decline of online engagement
B) They perpetuate the superficiality of slacktivism
C) They combine the strengths of online and offline activism efforts
D) They replace offline activism with virtual support
- 29** In what way does the intersection of the virtual and the real create a new paradigm of activism?
A) By emphasizing the limitations of online engagement
B) By dismissing the potential of online activities
C) By relying solely on virtual support for social change
D) By uniting diverse voices and driving social transformation
- 30** It is important to go beyond symbolic gestures in slacktivism because _____.
A) symbolic gestures can have a profound impact on real-world change
B) symbolic gestures divert attention from the core issues at hand
C) symbolic gestures often inspire others to take concrete action
D) symbolic gestures are the most effective way to create online awareness



Part 5

Questions 31-40

For questions 31- 35 choose the word(s) closest in meaning to the *underlined* word(s).

For questions 36 - 40 choose A, B, C or D.

Why Some Humans Are Stupid

Human intelligence is a complex phenomenon that has intrigued psychologists for centuries. While intelligence is generally considered a valuable trait, it is evident that some individuals display behaviours and decision-making that may be characterized as "stupid." Considerable effort has gone into attempts at shedding light on this (31) intriguing aspect of human behaviour.

A fundamental aspect of stupidity lies in the limitations of cognitive abilities. Some individuals may possess lower levels of general intelligence, affecting their capacity for logical reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making. This deficiency can lead to behaviours that are perceived as foolish or unintelligent. Emotional and impulsive reactions play a significant role in human stupidity. When faced with challenging situations or decision-making tasks, individuals who lack emotional regulation skills may act impulsively, disregarding rationality and consequences. This emotional (32) reactivity can impair their ability to make wise choices, resulting in seemingly "stupid" actions.

Humans tend to seek information that confirms their existing beliefs and disregard contradictory evidence. This cognitive bias, known as confirmation bias, can contribute to the (33) manifestation of stupidity. By selectively attending to information that supports their preconceived notions, individuals may overlook alternative perspectives or valuable insights, leading to uninformed or irrational decisions.

Stupidity can also arise from a lack of self-awareness, preventing individuals from recognizing their own limitations and areas of ignorance. This lack of insight hampers their ability to evaluate their own competence accurately, resulting in poor judgment and decisions. Without an understanding of one's cognitive shortcomings, it becomes challenging to rectify or improve upon them.

Humans are (34) inherently social beings, and social influence can significantly impact decision-making processes. Conformity to group norms or peer pressure may lead individuals to engage in actions that they would not have considered otherwise. This surrender of personal judgment to the collective can contribute to instances of apparent stupidity.

Environmental factors can also contribute to the manifestation of stupidity. Limited access to education, socio-economic disadvantages, or a lack of exposure to diverse perspectives can restrict intellectual growth. Moreover, stressful or chaotic environments may impair cognitive functioning, leading to suboptimal decision-making.

Overconfidence is another cognitive bias that can lead to foolish or irrational behaviour. Some individuals exhibit an (35) unwarranted belief in their abilities or knowledge, leading them to make hasty or ill-informed decisions. This inflated self-assessment can hinder critical thinking and objective evaluation, resulting in actions that are perceived as "stupid."



- 31 A) fascinating B) unstimulating C) obvious D) questionable
- 32 A) responsiveness B) silliness C) awkwardness D) prescription
- 33 A) concealment B) dream C) demonstration D) vagueness
- 34 A) constantly B) inherited C) institutionally D) intrinsically
- 35 A) without guarantee B) unjustified C) reasonable D) substantiated
- 36 One factor contributing to the manifestation of stupidity in humans is _____.
- A) emotional intelligence
 - B) cognitive flexibility
 - C) confirmation bias
 - D) high self-awareness
- 37 What is a common characteristic of individuals who display stupid behaviour?
- A) High emotional regulation skills
 - B) Openness to alternative perspectives
 - C) Lack of cognitive limitations
 - D) Impulsivity in decision-making
- 38 What is a cognitive ability that may be limited in individuals displaying stupidity?
- A) Logical reasoning
 - B) Emotional regulation
 - C) Self-awareness
 - D) Social conformity
- 39 Which cognitive bias involves seeking information that reaffirms existing beliefs?
- A) Availability heuristic
 - B) Anchoring bias
 - C) Confirmation bias
 - D) Overconfidence bias
- 40 The author says that *overconfidence bias* can lead to _____.
- A) rational decision-making
 - B) uninformed decisions
 - C) emotional regulation skills
 - D) effective problem-solving



Part 6

Writing

You recently listened to two podcasts on the topic "*The Impact of Social Media on Personal Relationships*". Each podcast gave a very different viewpoint on the same topic.

Choose one of the viewpoints presented below (either Viewpoint 1 or Viewpoint 2) and write an essay of between 230 - 250 words supporting that viewpoint. Make sure to provide clear and logical arguments to support your chosen view, incorporating relevant examples or evidence to strengthen your argument. Remember to structure your essay with an introduction, body paragraphs presenting your arguments and a conclusion summarizing your key points. Write your essay using your own words. You must include and expand on all the points below and add an additional idea of your own.

Viewpoint 1: Social Media Enhances Personal Relationships

- *Increased Connectivity*
- *Facilitates Communication*
- *Sharing Life Moments*
- *Building Online Communities*
- *Strengthening Long-Distance Relationships*
- *Enhanced Emotional Support*
- (Your own idea)

Viewpoint 2: Social Media Hinders Personal Relationships

- *Superficial Connections*
- *Lack of Authenticity*
- *Time and Attention Distraction*
- *Comparison and Envy*
- *Miscommunication and Misinterpretation*
- *Invasion of Privacy*
- (Your own idea)

Write between 230 and 250 words only.



